

OAK PARK MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES of Meeting, April 28, 2009
The Oak Park MAC held an official meeting Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 7:00 P.M.
Oak Park High School G-9, 899 N. Kanan Rd., Oak Park

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by *Chair Michael Paule* at 7:00 P.M. MAC members Michael Paule, Jay Kapitz, Michael Green, Derek Ross, and Mike Mc Reynolds were present.

2. Flag Salute

Harvey Kern led the flag salute.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The adoption of the agenda passed 5-0, on a motion by *Derek Ross*, seconded by *Mike Green*.

4. Approval of the Minutes of March 24, 2008

The minutes were approved 5-0, on a motion by *Derek Ross*, seconded by *Mike Mc Reynolds*, to include the change to Jay Kapitz's Council Comment substituting "no parking" for "no stopping", as well as the change requested by Derek Ross to add the title "State Senator" before the name Tony Strickland where it appeared.

5. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks commented on the challenges presented by the budget for fiscal year 2009/10, especially in light of the County Assessor's estimate of a 4% decline in property tax revenue. The County is looking at receiving some federal stimulus funding, additionally the EPA has received \$38 million marked for the Santa Susana Field Lab clean up. She noted the importance of the County's 9% reserve fund, which was created by the County's fiscal policy of allowing no new programs that are unfunded. Regarding the swine flu outbreak, she explained how public health experts define the phenomenon of a pandemic. *Michael Paule* inquired about coordinating sidewalk repair projects in Oak Park neighborhoods. *Supervisor Parks* responded that this can be arranged through the County Public Works Agency. She also mentioned that at her request the Probation Department and the Watershed Protection District had begun working together on graffiti abatement. *Jay Kapitz* raised questions about a recent meeting on Rockedyme contamination held in the community. *Supervisor Parks* noted that an established investigative group with scientific experts and representatives from numerous government agencies, including her own office staff, was an excellent source for information and public outreach.

6. Public comments

Janna Orkney reported on the Triunfo Sanitation District's voting in favor of an all-elected board, and its vote to lower waste water rates by 10%. She thanked Mike Green and David Ross for speaking in favor at the meeting of the vote for an all-elected board. She said that a free resident irrigation class would be offered.

7. Council Comments

Mike Mc Reynolds, the MAC's schools' liaison, reported that Measure R projects were progressing well, and that there were hopes that shortfalls to the district budget could be made up with federal stimulus funding. He said that the recent Clean Up Day was a success, and he requested that the process for selecting the OPHS student representative appear on the May agenda. Two Oak Park Unified School District schools were selected as California Distinguished Schools, OPHS and Medea Creek Middle School. He also noted that with a 9.2% local unemployment figure it was especially important to shop locally to stimulate the local economy.

Michael Green reported that the dog park and the splash pad were on schedule, but that the RSRPD board voted down creating a memorial site on Park district property. He said the Clean Up Day benefitted from over 100 participants and picked up four truck loads of trash. He thanked in particular the EEAC committee at OPHS, RSRPD, Mark Rausch, and for the help they gave to make the event successful. He inquired about the stairs along Hawthorne and Kanan that are in disrepair.

Derek Ross reported that the new teen CERT program was gathering momentum, and that a CERT program for teachers was also being worked on. He said that he had met in Sacramento with State Assemblywoman **Julia Brownley** and State Senator **Tony Strickland**. He said that the Friends of Oak Park Schools Slam 'n Jam event drew as many as 400 people and was a great event.

Jay Kapitz congratulated the TSD board for its vote on elections, and he thanked Janna Orkney and Michael Paule for fighting for this vote. He also congratulated Mike Green on the Clean Up event. He said he was looking forward to holding another National Night Out in early August, and said that the 2008 event had been organized in seven locations.

Michael Paule read a report from student representative **Bar Hadari**, with information about the schools' upcoming food for Manna drive, the Star testing in May, and on May 17 a charity show to benefit ALS and a Relay for Life event for peer counseling. He noted that the TSD Board had voted to raise water rates by 42%. He said that there would be a farewell party for Harvey Kern on May 31. He welcomed the opening of the Oak Park Farmers' Market on May 9.

8. Information items

Michael Green reported on efforts to clean up and to prevent graffiti in Oak Park. He gave the phone number (805) 654-2311 for reporting graffiti. Sheriff's **Captain Brent Kerr** emphasized the importance of residents reporting graffiti they see so that the incidents can be properly documented and investigated.

9. Action items

a. MAC recommendation, location of speed feedback sign(s) for Sunnycrest Dr.

Sara Piesco spoke, saying that she remained in favor of installing stop signs and that she felt that having them would have prevented an accident in which a car hit a house, but that she would also support getting speed feedback signs. **Michael Paule** said that input from residents made it clear that there was no consensus in favor of installing stop signs on Sunnycrest Dr. He said that he was willing to try speed feedback monitors made available by the Transportation Department to see if they would prove effective in improving traffic safety. **Michael Green** commented that there did appear to be a consensus that a problem exists on Sunnycrest Dr., and that he was still considering whether lowering the speed limit where it is marked 40 mph could help. **Supervisor Linda Parks** noted that the crosshatching markings on the roadway introduced by the Transportation Department did appear to be working to lower speeds, as reflected in comments from residents. **Officer Randy Hosking** explained that the 85% of recorded drivers' speeds on Sunnycrest Dr. was actually closer to 49 mph, so that reviewing the speed limit could lead to the result of raising the speed limit to 50 mph, not lowering it. **Michael Paule** made a motion, seconded by **Michael Green**, and approved 5-0, to appoint a subcommittee of two MAC members to work with the CHP to identify potential locations for installing speed feedback signs, and to create mock-up designs of the signs which could be placed in the potential locations. **Mike Mc Reynolds** and **Mike Green** volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

b. MAC recommendation, selection of a Liaison to the Community Wildlands Protection Plan (CWPP)

The MAC members agreed to not send a representative at the present time, but to consider it in the future.

c. MAC recommendation, traffic safety improvements for the vicinity of the Deerbrook Rd., Ellesmere intersection (cont. from March meeting)

The item was dropped as an action item, by agreement of the MAC members.

d. CSA #4 budget for fiscal year 2009/10

Pam Landrio, **Margaret Lopez**, and **Michelle Yamaguchi** from the County Public Works Agency presented a draft of the budget for the next year and also long range projections and addressed questions. The budget would be approved in June by the Board of Supervisors and any more questions about it needed to be communicated to staff soon. **Derek Ross** thanked them for their assistance keeping the Oak Park CERT supplies up to date. He said that the CERT bin at the fire station had been opened and checked the

previous weekend. **Mike Mc Reynolds** thanked them for providing long range estimates for the CSA #4 budget. The MAC agreed to keep the item on the agenda for the May meeting.

e. Standing Landscape Committee update and recommendations

Michael Paule reported that the committee would be making recommendations for the barren looking slope on Golden Eagle. He observed that RSRPD seemed to be slow in getting brush clearance done, especially across from Fire Station #36. He voiced concern over budget cutbacks, and said that Greg Epstein of Enhanced Landscape needed to be aware of the possibilities of reduced funding in the future, as well. He expressed appreciation to **Mike Green** for doing the drive along this month. Mike Green responded that conditions were looking great, and that compliments were in order to **Greg Epstein** for that.

10. Adjournment to 7:00 P.M., May 26, 2009

Chair Paule adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM until May 26, 2009 on a motion by **Jay Kapitz** that was seconded by **Mike Green** and passed 5-0.